

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 11862

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PLENARY, AUGUST 2, 1978
(SALT TWO - 1827)

REFS: A. SALT TWO - 1828 B. SALT TWO - 1829
C. SALT TWO - 1821

1. AT AUGUST 2 PLENARY I REAFFIRMED US PROPOSED FIFTH COMMON UNDERSTANDING TO ARTICLE II.5 ON MIRV LAUNCHER DISTINGUISHABILITY (REFTEL A).
2. SEMENOV'S STATEMENT (REFTEL B) COVERED ARTICLE II.3 AND VIII, REPEATING SUBSTANCE OF OUR JULY 27 POST-PLENARY DISCUSSION (REFTEL C). HE STRESSED HEAVY BOMBERS MUST NOT BE EQUIPPED FOR MORE THAN TWENTY ALCMS. SOVIET UNION COULD NOT AGREE TO INCREASE THAT NUMBER BY EVEN ONE. SEMENOV RESTATED POSITION REGARDING DEPLOYMENT BAN ON ALCMS ON TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AND LINKED SOVIET DRAFT AGREED STATEMENT ON "OBSERVABLE FEATURES" ON CURRENT
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HEAVY BOMBERS IN PART TO AGREEMENT ON ALCM FRACTIONATION LIMIT.

3. AT POST-PLENARY, I FURTHER SUPPORTED OUR PROPOSED MIRV COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON DISTINGUISHABILITY. SEMENOV PRESSED FOR INFORMATION RE ODS FOR B-52S EQUIPPED FOR LONG-RANGE ALCMS AND FOR ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION RE OUR

STATEMENT THAT ALCMS CURRENTLY PLANNED FOR DEPLOYMENT WILL

NOT FIT ON EXISTING SRAM ROTARY LAUNCHERS. HE SAID SOVIET DELEGATION AGREED, AD REFERENDUM TO GOVERNMENTS, ON GENERAL US APPROACH TO REFLECT TITLE OF JDT AS "AGREEMENT/TREATY" WITH EXPLANATORY FOOTNOTE, AND WE REFERRED SUBJECT TO DRAFTING GROUP. SEMENOV URGED AGREEMENT ON SOVIET-PROPOSED DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 1980 FOR INITIATING DISMANTLING TO REACH 2250, INVOKING "PRACTICAL REASONS" WHICH HE REFUSED TO AMPLIFY AT THIS TIME.

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER POST-PLENARY CONVERSATIONS:

ROWNY/BELETSKY. BELETSKY, IN REINFORCING SEMENOV'S PLENARY STATEMENT ON THE INADMISSIBILITY OF EQUIPPING TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FOR CRUISE MISSILES AND LIMITING HEAVY BOMBERS TO 20 CRUISE MISSILES PER AIRCRAFT, DESCRIBED US POSITIONS AS ATTEMPTS "TO OPEN UP THE ARMS RACE" AND "TO CIRCUMVENT ESTABLISHED CRUISE MISSILE LIMITATIONS."

JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN. SHCHUKIN CONTINUED TO LINK THE SOVIET PROPOSED LIMITATION OF 20 CRUISE MISSILES PER HEAVY BOMBER TO THE US PROPOSED FRACTIONATION LIMITATION FOR
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MIRVED MISSILES. HE MAINTAINED THAT WITH WIDE BODIED CRUISE MISSILE CARRIERS THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE THE SUSPICION THEY COULD BE EQUIPPED WITH MORE THAN 20 CRUISE MISSILES, BUT SEEMED UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER THE SOVIET VIEW WOULD BE DIFFERENT IF SMALLER AIRFRAME TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WERE LIMITED TO 20 CRUISE MISSILES.

OKUN-MCNEILL-STRANG/SMOLIN-OBUKHOV. SMOLIN INDICATED THAT INCLUSION OF HEAVY BOMBERS EQUIPPED FOR LONG-RANGE CMS IN 1320 AGGREGATE WAS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT CONCOMITANT LIMIT OF 20 CMS PER HEAVY BOMBER. ON SUBJECT OF MIRV LAUNCHER DISTINGUISHABILITY, HE STATED THAT THIS US PROPOSAL REPRESENTED AN INTERESTING IDEA WHICH WAS CURRENTLY UNDER ACTIVE STUDY BY SOVIETS.

KRAMER-A.JOHNSON/BEKETOV-JOURAVLEV. SOVIETS REAFFIRMED PREVIOUS POSITION THAT AIRPLANES SPECIALLY BUILT AS CRUISE MISSILE CARRIERS, REGARDLESS OF TYPE OF AIRFRAME FROM WHICH THEY ARE CONSTRUCTED, WOULD BE PERMITTED BY SOVIET PROPOSAL.

CHAPUT/PAVLICHENKO. PAVLICHENKO SAID SOVIET PLANS TO

"DEACTIVATE" BISON BOMBERS MEANS THAT AIRCRAFT WILL BE REMOVED FROM OPERATIONAL FORCE. HE REITERATED THAT PORTION OF BISON BOMBER FLEET WILL BE CONVERTED TO TANKERS BUT WAS NOT CERTAIN OF THE DISPOSITION OF REMAINING BOMBERS. HE NOTED THAT "ADDITIONAL" FEATURES TO BE ADDED TO BISON TANKERS MIGHT INVOLVE REMOVAL OF BOMB BAY DOORS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER CHANGES TO BOMB BAY WOULD BE OBSERVABLE TO NTM, HE SAID THAT NTM INCLUDES MORE THAN SATELLITES, SUCH AS FLY-BY PAST US

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AIRCRAFT OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS. HE DID NOT DENY THAT SOVIETS HAD CHANGED POSITION ON USE OF TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AS CRUISE MISSILE CARRIERS. HE LINKED THEIR OPPOSITION TO TRANSPORTS AS MISSILE CARRIER TO MAXIMUM OF 20 MISSILES PER AIRCRAFT. HE NOTED THAT TRANSPORTS COULD CARRY 70-80 MISSILES MAKING THEIR USE INCONSISTENT WITH 20 MISSILE MAXIMUM. EARLE

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